

In the Claims:

Kindly rewrite claims 1-8 as follows:

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1. (Amended) A flat self-adhering plaster having a multi-layer construction and reduced cold flow, comprising a layer adhesive which attaches to skin having a core of adhesive which is a flowable adhesive and a ring of adhesive being an adhesive having reduced flowability to that of the core and said ring surrounding said core.

2. (Amended) A plaster according to claim 1, wherein the core of adhesive contains a pharmaceutical or cosmetic active agent.

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3. (Twice Amended) A plaster according to claim 1, wherein the multi-layer construction comprises a cover, the layer of adhesive and removable carrier, which acts as a temporary cover and which is present on a side of the layer of adhesive opposite the cover.

4. (Amended) A plaster according to claim 3, wherein the cover consists essentially of a film of plastic, woven fabric or non-woven fabric.

5. (Twice Amended) A plaster according to claim 3, wherein the carrier consists essentially of a film of plastic, paper or a laminate thereof.

6. (Twice Amended) A plaster according to claim 4, wherein the film of plastic consists essentially of a film of polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, polypropylene or polyvinyl chloride.

7. (Amended) A plaster according to claim 5, wherein the carrier possesses a release coating.

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8. (Amended) A plaster according to claim 7, wherein the release coating consists essentially of a silicone layer or fluoro-silicone layer.

REMARKS

Applicants enclose a Change of Correspondence Address for this application.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The claims have been amended to conform them to U.S. practice. Also, the claims have been amended to improve their readability and clarity and not for purposes of patentability under 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 or 112.

Claim 1 provides for a self-adhering plaster wherein the layer of adhesive which attaches to the skin has a core adhesive surrounded by a ring of adhesive. The ring of adhesive is not as flowable as the core adhesive. In other words, the ring adhesive is a harder adhesive and serves to contain the core adhesive which is a softer adhesive. The core adhesive provides for greater adhesion to the skin than the ring adhesive. The ring adhesive does, however, prevent the core adhesive to flow to the edges of the patch for reasons that will be discussed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,538,736 to Hoffmann. However, Hoffmann fails to disclose the present invention as claimed. Rather, Hoffmann describes a plaster which allows a planned reduction of the active substance release after a predetermined time; cf. Column 2, lines 7-9. This aim is achieved by reducing the size of the active substance release surface; cf. Column 1, lines 26-27. Figure 1 shows a plaster with a